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The Archer

Published by East Finchley Newspapers, P.O. Box 3699, London N2 2DE. www.the-archer.co.uk



Another archer joins Archie in Northern line vigil

By John Lawrence

Anyone who happens to look up the driveway of a house near the fire station in Long Lane could be forgiven for doing a double take when they see East Finchley's famous Archie statue apparently a mile away from his usual home.

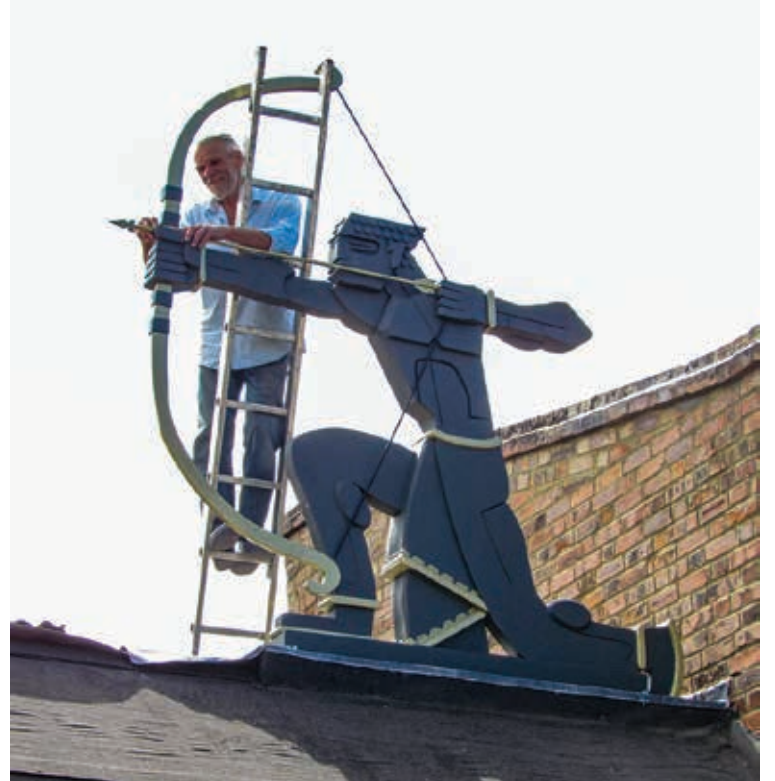
It's not the tube station's celebrated Archie himself but his new left-handed little brother, lovingly handcrafted by Long Lane Pasture trustee Wayne Armsby. He has named him Alf in tribute to his father, and also "because he's about 'alf the size of the original".

Alf's arrow

From a distance, and even up close, the detail on Wayne's Alf is an exact match for sculptor Eric Aumonier's Archie, right down to his golden bow and his expression of fierce determination as he looks down the Northern line. But Alf has something that Archie has never had... the fabled golden arrow (which may, or may not, have



Big brother: Sculptor Eric Aumonier works on Archie in 1940. Picture courtesy London's Transport Museum © TfL.



Little brother: Wayne Armsby and Alf. Photo John Lawrence

once been displayed in a glass case at Morden station).

Wayne said: "When I was a kid, I remember being driven

through East Finchley from our home in Barnet, and my first question was 'Dad, why hasn't he got an arrow?' So when I had my chance at long last, I gave him one, and a string."

A dream realised

Wayne worked from a reversed version of the famous 1940 photo of Aumonier on a ladder next to his statue. While Archie is carved from beech and lined with lead, his younger brother has been made from layers of plywood, painted and then sealed with polyurethane.

He said: "Archie is a marvellous creation. I've always loved the look and the detail of him and for years I'd had it in my head to make my own version. This year I finally did it as a winter project. I started in January and he was up by the end of May."

So now East Finchley has a kind of archer relay, with Alf aiming down the Northern line from Long Lane directly at Archie on top of the station... in time for his 80th birthday next year.



Missing piece: Wayne gives Alf his golden arrow. Photo John Lawrence

Gold standard among green spaces

Long Lane Pasture, opposite Finchley Fire Station in Long Lane, N3, has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the UK's very best green spaces for the eighth year running. The volunteer-run Pasture is the only Barnet Council owned green space to be awarded this recognition.

Donald Lyven, Chair of the Long Lane Pasture Trust, said: "We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the effort that goes into maintaining the Pasture to such a high standard."

Spot the odd one out again

The third successive Odd One Out competition organised by the Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association is taking place during the school holidays.

Open to youngsters of 12 years and under, participating shops will have an 'Odd One Out' sign on display in their window where there will also be an object which does not belong in it; for example, an Oxo cube in a bookshop.

Entry forms are available in Muswell Hill library and at www.mhfga.org along with the competition rules. The winner/s will be those who identify all of the objects correctly.

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